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COMIC SHOP NEWS
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A Comics Specialty Outlet
TALK ABOUT
HOT!

Silver Days Are Here Again!

Some concepts age well, it seems. Almost a half-century ago, a ring-wearing hero first appeared in the pages of ***All-American Comics #16***, while a winged warrior made is debut appearance in the pages of ***Flash Comics #1***. After an approximately-twenty-year hiatus, both heroes returned to the pages of DC Comics in a revitalized form. And now, helping kick off DC's entry into the 90's, both Green Lantern and Hawkman return to the monthly DC line-up in April, reclaiming their position as vital heroes in the DC pantheon.

Hawkworld is the first of the two new titles to debut; it is slated for April 12th release. This new Hawkman title is inspired by the wildly successful Timothy Truman ***Hawkworld*** limited series that appeared in the summer and fall of 1989. Truman is too busy to write and illustrate the new monthly series, but he has agreed to co-write ***Hawkworld*** along with John Ostrander, the current author of ***Firestorm*** and ***Suicide Squad***. Truman and Ostrander are certainly not strangers; the two are the co-creators of ***Grimjack***.

The art honors went to Graham Nolan; Nolan was the artist for DC's ***Power of the Atom*** and previously illustrated ***The Prowler***--a book co-created by Timothy Truman!

The first issue of the new-format monthly series will bring Hawkman to Earth in pursuit of his arch-enemy Byth. Katar and Shayera will take part in adventures on both Earth and Thanagar in future issues. Longtime Justice League fans will also be excited to hear that ***JLA*** villain Kanjar Ro, who first appeared almost thirty years ago, will return in this series as well.

A week after ***Hawkworld*** debuts, ***Green Lantern #1*** will spotlight not one but *three* Green Lanterns in a complex monthly series. Gerard Jones, writer of ***The Trouble With Girls, El Diablo,*** and ***The Shadow Strikes!***, will write the series, which will chronicle the three Green Lanterns: Hal Jordan, John Stewart, and Guy Gardner. The series will have a rotating focus that will shift between this trio. Different artists will illustrate each Green Lantern's tales: Pat Broderick will be the artist for issues that focus on Hal Jordan; Joe Staton will illustrate the Guy Gardner issues; and Mark Bright is the penciller for the John Stewart issues. The first issue, illustrated by Broderick, will also feature a Justice League appearance.

Hawkworld will be priced at $1.50 per issue; ***Green Lantern***, a standard-format title, will carry a $1 pricetag.

by Cliff Biggers

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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

From

A Comics Specialty Outlet

Sizzlin'!

"Gentleman of the press, I called you here to my laboratory because I have a difficult problem in my latest discovery...as you know, I've been working on a synthetic man, an exact replica of a human being! In this airtight glass case lives my creation...I call him The Human Torch!"

So said Professor Horton in ***Marvel Comics 1***, November 1939. The historic issue that launched the career of the Original Human Torch and Sub-Mariner. Marvel hopes to heat up your February with the debut of ***Saga of the Original Human Torch.*** The original Human Torch is a familiar figure to readers of ***Avengers West Coast,*** but many fans may not be familiar of the half-century of history that the character has. After the character's introduction, he became so hot that he scorched the pages of seven other titles including ***Captain America, All-Winners, All-Select, Mystic, Daring, Sub-Mariner, Young Allies*** and his own book. He blazed his way across hundreds of covers, melting diabolic death-ray devices, searing Nazi hordes and turning Axis invasion weapons and machinery into molten slag. As an original comic book character, few would ever top him.

Roy Thomas, Rich Buckler and Danny Bulanadi will present the Torch's bizarre and fiery origin in the four-issue, $1.50 series. The first issue will cover the Torch's 1940's career. The cover of that issue (as well as this week's ***CSN***) is an homage to the cover of the Torch's first appearance in ***Marvel Comics 1***..

by Ward Batty

A Grave Look at A Deadly Ghost

Ghost Rider is a name that keeps recurring at Marvel Comics. Over thirty years ago, Ghost Rider was a western hero; a little over twenty years ago, he was brought back again as an avenger of the innocent in the old West. A little more than a decade ago, ***Ghost Rider*** was reborn; this time, though, his chosen means of transportation was a motorcycle, not a horse. After years of mystic motorcycle action, that Ghost Rider's exploits came to a close.

With the 90's here, though, Marvel has decided that it's time to unleash a new Ghost Rider. While the name may be the same, and the motorcycle transportation is familiar, Howard Mackie, Javier Saltares, and Mark Texeira assure everyone that this Ghost Rider makes his old namesake seem much more like Casper!

Ghost Rider owes much of its tone to serious, grim books like Punisher and Wolverine, not to the Marvel mystical-action titles of the 70's. It's the story of a vigilante who is possessed by a desire to bring criminals to justice, no matter what means he has to use to do it.

We really mean that "possessed" part, by the way.

Ghost Rider begins with the very human Danny Ketch, a young man who has accompanied his sister to a cemetery

where she hopes to get a picture of Houdini's grave and the spiritualists who surround it, trying to make contact. It seems like an entertainingly macabre way to spend an evening.

Then his sister is killed by criminals using the cemetery as a site for their cryptic deeds. As Danny holds her in his arms, his desire for vengeance brings him under the spell of the Ghost Rider, a figure of death on a flaming motorcycle who uses all the weapons of Heaven and Hell to bring criminals to justice.

And criminals thought the Punisher was dangerous...

Ghost Rider is a gritty comic that should appeal to a wide range of interests. It has a strong mystical undercurrent, but the emphasis of the series is hard-boiled action. Furthermore, this isn't a book that takes place in some isolated corner of the Marvel Universe; in fact, the Punisher's, Daredevil's, and Spider-Man's nemesis the Kingpin plays a major role in the series, firmly anchoring it in the Marvel superhero world from the outset.

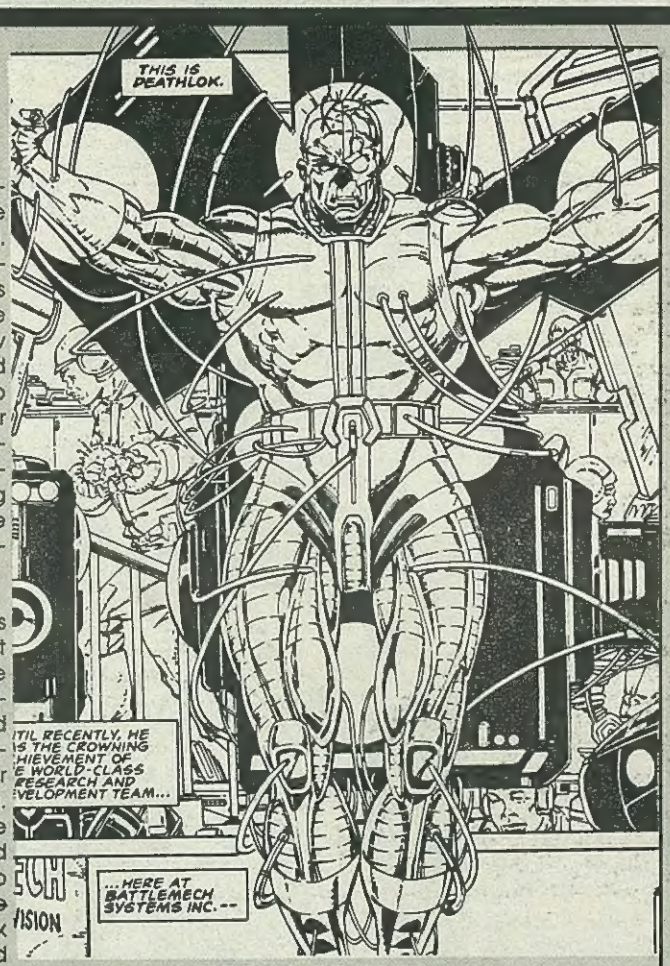
Ghost Rider kicks off on March 15th with a 48-page special offset format premiere issue priced at $1.95. All subsequent issues will be priced at $1.50 for 32 pages.

by Wayne Lee

NEWSBRIEFS

THE RETURN OF THE MAN OF STEEL AND WIRES

Back in the seventies, Marvel's **Deathlock** made the nineties look like, well, hell. Deathlock was a cyberpunk ahead of his time as he fought for survival in the dystopian nineties. So now the nineties are here and they've turned out not to be much of a dystopia after all. With that in mind, Marvel is reviving and revamping Deathlock and bring him into the Marvel Universe in a new four-issue bookshelf-format series.



The new Deathlock is Michael Collins, a pacifist tricked into working on the Deathlock Project by the villainous Harlan Ryker. Head of Cybertech Systems, Ryker has his own agenda for the Deathlock cyborg. When Collins discovers the truth, he's brutally murdered -- and awakens awakens to discover that he's ~~Rebooop~~ trapped in the Deathlock cyborg. Now he has to find a way to counteract the programming that makes Deathlock a perfect killing machine -- and destroy Cybertech before it destroys him.

The first two issues of the ***Deathlock*** bookshelf series will be illustrated by ***Dr. Strange*** artist **Jackson Guice,** and the last two issues will be illustrated by **Denys Cowan.** Plus each issue will feature a painted cover by **Joe Jusko.** The series is written by **McDuffie** and **Wright.** The first issue should hit comic shops May 17 and will be priced at $3.95.

DC READIES TRIO OF QUARTERLIES

DC is set to enter the quarterly-comics market in a big way this spring with three different quarterly titles. Two of them have already been announced--***Ms. Tree Quarterly*** and ***Question Quarterly***--but the third quarterly should be a pleasant surprise to Justice League fans. ***Justice League Quarterly*** will feature adventures of members of both Leagues, produced by a variety of writers and artists. **Joe Phillips**, artist of ***Mr. Miracle,*** is working on one issue of ***JLQ.*** As soon as further information is available, ***CSN*** will let you know more!

MINDGAME EXPANDS YOUR WARDROBE

Mindgame, the comics merchandising company, has a few t-shirts set for March release that will enable you to retire some of those worn-out shirts you've been reluctant to put away. The company is offering a ***Zot! t-shirt*** featuring the costume-emblem of this **Scott McCloud** hero on a red shirt. If you want to wear a skull on your chest and your Punisher shirt is dirty, you can add the ***Black Terror shirt,*** complete with the skull and crossbones on a black t-shirt. Mindgames final offering for March is a full-color shirt featuring the cover to **Rick Veitch**'s trade paperback edition of **The One.** All shirts carry a $12.95 pricetag; be sure to let your local comic shop know which ones you have to have!

HE HANGS OUT

Everyone has had an unpleasant experience with a friend who dropped over to hang out and just wouldn't leave. But what if your unwanted visitor was the Grim Reaper? That's the plight of Henry Jones in ***Beautiful Stories For Ugly Children #12,*** set for May 10th release. In this issue, Henry has to deal with a really *grave* house guest...

Beautiful Stories #12 also marks a change in price and format for the series; beginning with this issue, each ***Beautiful Stories for Ugly Children*** will feature 40 pages of story and art for $2.50. As always, **Dave Louapre** and **Dan Sweetman** are the masterminds behind this sojourn into the surreal.

YOU LARUE THE DAY YOU MISSED THIS ONE...

AC continues its efforts to expand the Western-comic marketplace with its March offering, ***Lash LaRue Western #1.*** This comic book, featuring 24 color pages and 16 black and white pages of story and art, reprints classic Lash LaRue western tales from the 1950's. The book will also feature a photo section on Lash and info on Lash LaRue memorabilia. ***Lash LaRue Western #1*** will carry a $3.50 pricetag, and is a part of the AC Collectors Classics line.

NO SOLO SULU?

George Takei, the actor best known for his portrayal of Sulu on **Star Trek,** will be co-writing ***Star Trek Annual #1*** with **Peter David.** The book, set to appear in mid-April, won't feature a solo Sulu adventure, though; instead, the story will unite Sulu with a former lover! This annual takes the USS Enterprise to a colony world stricken by a deadly plague; in spite of the dire situation, though, the colonists don't want any help. **Gray Morrow** illustrates this $2.95 64-page new format annual.

AIRCEL SET TO RAISE HELL

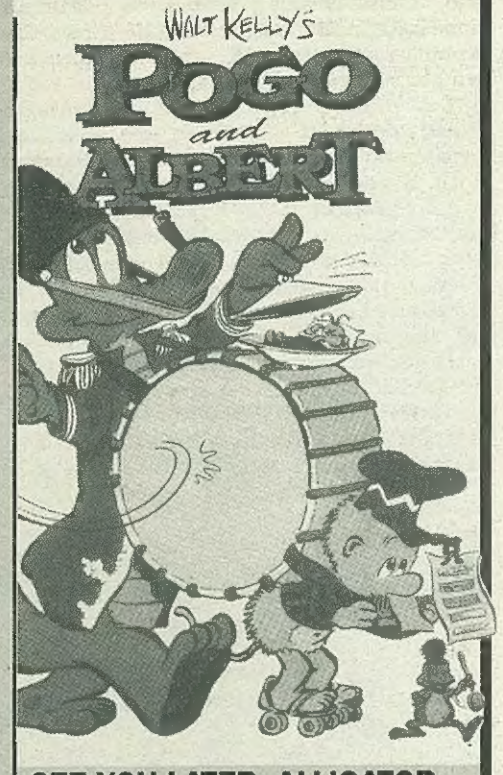
Peter Hsu's ***Hellrazor*** graphic novel has never seen comics distribution; this adults-only erotic sword and sorcery fantasy was previously available only by mail order in an expensive edition. But in April, all the Hellrazor material will be included in Aircel's upcoming ***Quadrant Graphic Novel*** at less than half the price of the original.

"There is an incredible demand for Peter Hsu's erotic work," **Dave Olbrich**, Publisher of Aircel, said. "Back issue prices for the first issue of ***Quadrant*** have skyrocketed. Peter's limited edition of ***Hellrazor*** is commanding as much as $200 on the collectors' market."

Aircel's ***Quadrant Graphic Novel*** will contain the complete ***Hellrazor*** storyline by **Tara Ballance** and **Peter Hsu**--and it will also feature *eight new pages* of Hellrazor material unavailable anywhere else. Peter Hsu promises that this new material is "the sexiest work I've ever done. Fans of ***Quadrant*** will definitely not be disappointed."

The ***Quadrant Graphic Novel*** will also feature the complete uncensored version of "Goddess" which was considered too steamy for the general public when the story originally appeared in the Warren magazine ***1994.*** "For the ***Quadrant Graphic Novel,*** I've reworked the art to include many of the scenes that had to be censored for the newsstand," Hsu said.

Aircel's ***Quadrant Graphic Novel,*** set for April release, will be priced at $19.95; it is intended for adults only, and each copy of the graphic novel will be shipped pre-sealed in a plastic bag.



SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR

Walt Kelly's Albert Alligator and Pogo Possum are ready to move from the Okefenokee Swamp to the comic shop racks in early May, when ***Pogo and Albert Volume 3: Diggi' Fo' Square Roots*** is slated for release from Eclipse comics. This volumes continues the ambitious Eclipse project that will eventually reprint all the Pogo stories originally released in comic book form decades ago.

This 64-page graphic album will feature the fist appearances of Seminole Sam, Beauregard Bugleboy, and Barnstable Bear--although all of them appear under different names! ***Pogo and Albert: The Complete Pogo Comics Volume 3*** will also feature an introduction by Malcolm White of the Cartoon Art Museum. The trade paperback edition is priced at $8.95; a hardcover edition will follow a month later, priced at $29.95.

MARVEL TELLS MUTANT-NON-MUTANT TALES

Marvel Tales, the Spider-Man reprint title, continues its reprinting of classic meetings of Spidey and Marvel's Mutant Heroes in March. ***Marvel Tales #237,*** on sale March 22nd, reprints the first part of ***Marvel Team-Up #150*** by **Louise Simonson, Greg LaRoque,** and **Mike Esposito,** which united Spider-Man and the X-Men to face off against the Juggernaut and Black Tom. Of course, the new **Todd McFarlane** cover for this issue will be another eye-catcher as well.

SOFT-COVERED ASYLUM

Arkham Asylum, the record-breaking Batman hardcover that was released--and sold out--last November, will appear in trade paperback in mid-April, a scant five months after the hardcover edition's release. This is sooner than the average DC trade paperback usually appears, but the high level of demand for the book has led DC to this scheduling.

The trade paperback of ***Arkham Asylum*** will feature an all-new painted cover by **Dave McKean;** the book will feature the full contents of the hardcover. ***Arkham Asylum,*** set for April 12th release, will be priced at $14.95.

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NEWSBRIEFS

V FOR VENDETTA IN TPB FOR TRADE PAPERBACK

Alan Moore's and **David Lloyd's** ***V for Vendetta*** received almost as much critical acclaim as Moore's ***Miracleman*** when both series appeared in the pages of the British Magazine ***Warrior*** in the early 1980's. Since the series was never completed in its British run, DC had Moore and Lloyd bring the story to completion in a ten-issue limited series that appeared in 1988. With the enormous growth of popularity Moore has experienced even since the appearance of the limited series, however, many of his fans haven't had a chance to enjoy this grim series set in the Great Britain of 1997.

In early May, DC will gather the entire 10-issue limited series together in a single 288-page $14.95 trade paperback. The saga focuses on a grim, dreary England of the near future, a world of darkness, despots and despair. This is the setting of ***V for Vendetta***, a story of hopelessness... and hope.

David Lloyd is painting an all-new cover for the trade paperback collection; all ten of his covers for the comic book series will be included in the trade paperback. Look for it on May 10th.

THIS ONE GOES ON FOREVER

Joe Haldeman's ***The Forever Wars*** is one of the most popular science fiction novels of the past two decades; many fans of the work are unaware that there has been a comics adaptation of the work, however. American readers will have a chance to see that adaptation beginning in April, when ***Cheval Noir #8*** offers the initial installment of **Marvano's** comics version of this sf novel.

Cheval Noir #8, which leads off with a **Pander Bros.** cover, will also feature the Adventures of Fred and Bob by **Calleteau** and **Vatine**; Adele and the Demon of the Elffel Tower by **Tardi**; Lone Sloane by **Druillet**; Coutoo by **Andreas**; and more, including work by **Brian Bolland** and **Everett Peck**. ***Cheval Noir #8***, a 64-page black and white comic, is priced at $3.50.

(knowing the Punisher, his teeth may also be armed!) by **Jim Lee**.

NO FALSE MODESTY HERE

Modesty Blaise fans tend to be very loyal to their heroine--but many of them have trouble finding the comic strip adventures of ***Modesty Blaise***, so they usually have to wait until those adventures are eventually collected into trade paperback.

Peter O'Donnell's female adventurer and her sidekick Willie Garvin won't be quite as hard to find beginning in March, though, when ***Comics Revue #44*** begins running an all-new ***Modesty Blaise*** adventure in its pages. Each issue will feature a month's worth of Modesty Blaise, along with a monthly helping of ***Batman, Calvin & Hobbes, Flash Gordon, the Phantom, Steve Canyon, Latigo, Popeye, Hagar***, and more.

Comics Revue is priced at $4.95 per issue; each issue offers a heaping helping of comic strips in a 68-page magazine-sized format.

WHOSE VAULT IS IT? GLADSTONE'S, OF COURSE!

Gladstone's ambitious EC reprint project continues in April with the release of a second bi-monthly reprint book, ***Vault of Horror #1***. ***Vault of Horror #1*** will reprint two entire EC horror comics in a single 64-page $1.95 book.

Included in this premiere issue will be the contents of ***Vault of Horror #34***, which features stories by **Johnny Craig, Jack Davis, Reed Crandall**, and **Graham Ingels**; and ***The Haunt of Fear #15*** (which is actually the first issue of ***HoF***) featuring suspenseful tales by **Craig, Kurtzman, Wally Wood**, and **Al Feldstein**. Look for this full-color premiere issue on April 26th.

WHAT IF THE X-MEN TOOK OVER WHAT IF?

The X-Men have proven to be very popular stars in ***What If?***, Marvel's alternate-history series. In fact, ***What If #13***, on sale March 22nd, will feature the second X-Men story in a row. This time around, **Busiek, Mielcarek, Akin** and **Garvey** explore what would happen if Professor Xavier Had Become the Juggernaut.

The storyline features Magneto, the Sentinels, and everyone who was anybody during the early years of the Marvel Universe. Most of this issue takes place in a "future history" setting, which means that it should be especially popular with ***X-Men: Days of Future Past*** fans.

PUNISHER FANS CAN BE ARMED WITH THE FACTS

In late May Marvel will attempt to answer many Punisher fan's dream with the inside scoop on the many weapons, gear and gadgets used in their favorite comic with ***Punisher Armory***. This 32-page, $1.50 reference comic is an expanded version of the popular "Arsenal" pages in ***Punisher War Journal***.

However, Marvel stresses that while some of the issue reprints those pages, most of the issue will be new material. Marvel says fans can think of this as *The Official Handbook Of The Punisher Armory* -- although clearly the real name is easier on the guy who makes Marvel's logos. A second issue is planned in late 1990 and more will follow as demand warrants. As you can see, the cover features an armed-to-the-teeth

THE FALL OF
ARMSTRONG
A MAN OF TWO WORLDS IN DANGER OF LOSING BOTH... FOREVER.
BY RICHARD BRUNING & ANDY KUBERT, WITH ADAM KUBERT
A THREE ISSUE SERIES IN DC's PRESTIGE FORMAT. AVAILABLE IN JANUARY.
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CSN IN FOCUS

BATMAN™ by Loebs, Infantino & Nyberg

LOOK, HARVEY. THE BATMAN BROKE UP ANOTHER ROBBERY LAST NIGHT.
I KNOW. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE GETS SOMEONE KILLED.
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
I JUST HOPE MY DISLIKE OF HIM IS ONLY PROFESSIONAL.
THAT SOUNDS OMINOUS.
WELL, AFTER ALL, IF A VIGILANTE CAN ENFORCE THE LAW--
--WHAT'S THE POINT OF HAVING A D.A.?
YOU TALK AS IF YOU'RE IN COMPETITION WITH THE BATMAN, HARVEY.
AS D.A., YES, I AM.
BATMAN A ROBBE!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
YOU POOR TORMENTED DEAR.
BUT I ALSO LOVE THE LAW, AND A VIGILANTE UNDERMINES ALL LAW.
ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT... PERSONALLY OR PROFESSIONALLY I MUST EVENTUALLY DESTROY THIS BATMAN!
IN STATELY WAYNE MANOR...
MORE TEA, SIR?
THANKS, ALFRED. FOR EVERY GANG I SMASH, THERE SEEM TO BE TWO MORE!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
THEN HOW, MAY WE ASK, DO YOU PLAN TO FIND THIS MASTER FENCE, SIR?
IN DISGUISE, ALFRED. IN DISGUISE!
NEAR GOTHAM HARBOR...
I HEARD A MOCKINGBIRD SING...
BIRDS ONLY SING AT NIGHT.
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
YOU KNOW THE PASSWORD.
I GOT TROUBLE... HOT MERCHANDISE I CAN'T MOVE.
SURE, CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.
MAYBE WE C'N HELP. GOTTA CHECK YOU OUT... THE BATMAN'S EVERYPLACE!
THE DISGUISED BATMAN WORKS CLOSER TO THE MYSTERIOUS MASTER FENCE...
THIS IS PATCH MALLOY, DORT. HE NEEDS A FRIEND.
EV'R'BODY DOES.
I GOT SOME MERCHANDISE T'UNLOAD.
MAYBE THERE'S A FENCE I KNOW...
ANOTHER PIGEON, SWIFTY?
YEAH, PENGUIN, YEAH! THIRD ONE THIS WEEK!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
I DON'T GET IT, BOSS... YOU'VE HAD ME TELL EVERYBODY WHO ASKS T'MEET HERE TOMORROW!
THE BATMAN AND I ARE PLAYING CHICKEN...
AND WHEN THE BAT IS IN THE HENHOUSE...
WE'LL BE SURE HE DOESN'T FLY THE COOP! AWK AWK!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
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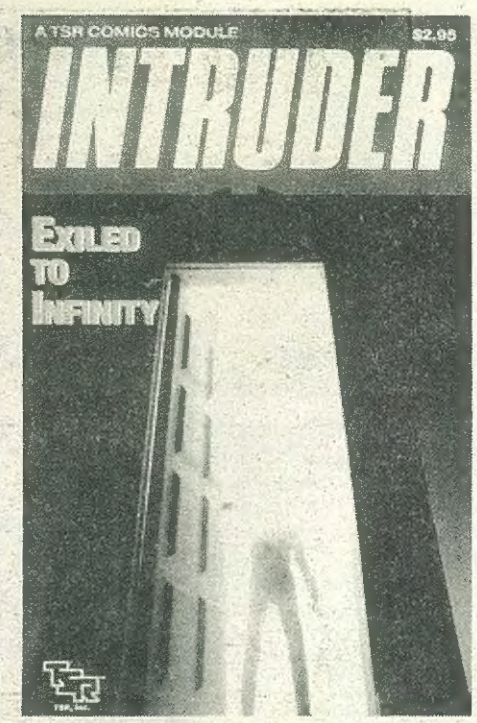
by Cliff Biggers

The 90's are barely underway, but if the first few months are any indicator of what the rest of the 90's will be like, it's going to be a great year for comics! A trio of "big names" have announced their entry into the comics field since the beginning of the year. Disney Comics will bring fans new Disney material featuring time-honored characters; Valiant Comics will combine a touch of old (classic Western Comics heroes like ***Magnus, Turok,*** and ***Space Family Robinson***) with a touch of new (a line of Nintendo-inspired licensed books). The third "heavy hitter" venturing into the comics world is TSR, and they're taking a decidedly different approach, giving fans something familiar, mixed with something new and exciting.

TSR isn't an unfamiliar name to comics fans; they have established themselves in the gaming world through their lines of fantasy, sf, horror, suspense/adventure, and warfare games. They're the company that brought the Marvel Universe to role-playing gaming; they've also produced an occasional graphic novel in the past (***Dragonlance*** and ***Agent 13*** graphic novels have been published under the TSR imprint already). They've also ventured into the world of prose with a series of novels, many of which were inspired by their own gaming worlds. Is it any wonder that comics is the next field TSR intends to make their mark in?

"We started putting together our comics line last spring," Flint Dille, creative director of TSR, said. "Of course, we'd done graphic novels for a couple of years now, so we weren't strangers to the world of comics." TSR's gaming concepts are familiar to comics fans as well--even those who don't play games. TSR has licensed



several of its most popular gaming systems, including ***Forgotten Realms, Dragonlance,*** and ***Advanced Dungeons and Dragons,*** to DC Comics, who produced monthly adventures inspired by these TSR fantasy worlds.

"We don't view ourselves as just another company in competition with Marvel and DC," Roger Slifer, Acquisitions Director for TSR, said. While TSR's comics will be on the racks, vying for attention with Marvel and DC books, TSR's comics will be more than just comics. Each book will include a selection of games material as well, prepared under the direction of Scott Herring.

TSR's comics-and-games format is unique in the industry at the present time; each 40-page comic book will feature a 22 page lead story, an 11-page back-up story, and several pages of gaming material.

CSN IN FOCUS

TSR Set To Perform New Role as Comics Publisher

"We're going to fill these books with material," Slifer said. "There will be stand-alone mini-games, role-playing games material, maps, characters--all produced by TSR and Scott Herring." The material will be designed for both single play and for two and three-player use.

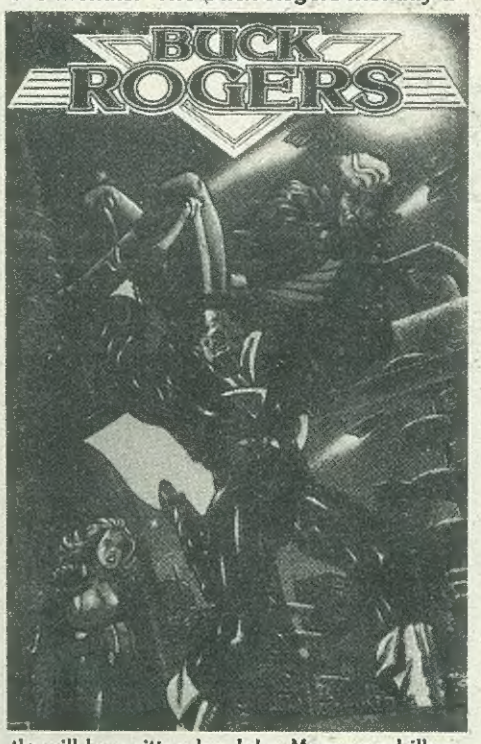
"We're not putting any ads in our comic books," Flint Dille said. "Even the inside covers will feature material designed for our readers, such as game maps."

While TSR has been planning its comics line for almost a year now, the books are being prepared on about the same lead-time schedule as most other company's comics. "We're putting things together with enough lead time to make sure that the books come out on time," Roger Slifer said, "but at the same time, we don't want to be bored with our own material by the time it finally comes out."

TSR's initial offerings will feature a wide assortment of comics talent, highlighted by several well-known names in the field. "The people producing our comics are the best that we can find, no matter what background they come from," Flint Dille said. "We're using talented writers and artists from the comics industry, but we're also using some other people who won't be as well known to comics fans--people from the animation world. We want to offer both new characters and new talent for the 90's."

TSR 's comics line will begin in May, two months after the company kicks off its graphic module line of graphic-novels-plus-gaming-modules with ***Buck Rogers*** and ***Agent 13.*** The comics line will debut with five different titles, each focusing on a different comics and gaming genre.

TSR's premiere comic book title will be ***Buck Rogers,*** whose graphic novel adventure will precede the actual comic book by two months. The ***Buck Rogers*** monthly title will be written by John Moore and illustrated by Paul Smith, who is also illustrating the ***Buck Rogers*** graphic novel. The backup feature in each issue will be ***Raiders From Mars*** by Buzz Dixon and Stan Woch. The ***Buck Rogers*** series features Buck Rogers in "a twenty-fifth century world of terra-formed planets, genetically engineered warriors, vicious space pirates, sultry temptresses, and corporate overlords." Creative Director Flint Dille has a special affinity for Buck Rogers; his grandfather was Buck's originator. Naturally, the gaming material in each issue will tie in with the ***Buck Rogers in the 25th Century Role Playing Game,*** set for release in early June with modules to follow each month through the fall.



Fans of espionage, intrigue, and adventure will find just what they're looking for in the pages of ***Agent 13.*** This series, written by Mike Barr (a master of mystery whose critically-acclaimed ***Maze Agency*** is published by Innovation Comics) and illustrated by Robb Phipps (who has worked with Barr on recent ***Maze Agency*** tales), brings ***Agent 13*** into the 1990's in a taut adventure in which "secret masters control the world, and one man, Agent 13, wages a secret war against them. The world knows him as a mysterious assassin who leaves a scorching brand on the foreheads of his enemies. But only he can save a civilization that refuses to be saved!" The backup story will be ***Web of Orion,*** written by Scott Herring and pencilled by Walt Davis.

Shortly after the release of these first two titles, three more titles will be added, completing the initial TSR Comics line. These final three should appear in late May or early June, and will also be monthly. The three are more concept oriented and less character oriented than the initial pair of books.

For fans with eclectic tastes, ***Intruder*** is the perfect book. According to Flint Dille, Intruder will be a mixed genre book that will feature stories relating to almost every sort of gaming system TSR offers. ***Intruder*** will be written by Steven Grant, writer of ***Whisper*** and the hit ***Punisher*** limited series; it will be illustrated by Tim Gurloch. TSR describes Intruder thus: "Suppose all of the worlds that you imagine are real--and that you can travel among them. The ***Intruder*** does exactly that, doomed to wander across an infinity of Earth's all-too-possible alternative futures. The game materials create monthly bridges among TSR worlds, allowing gamers' favorite characters to 'transmute' from TSR

CREATED BY BOB KANE
BATMAN
by Loebs, Cinfa & Nyberg
I HEARD THE MOCKINGBIRD SING...
GET IN.
BOY! A LOTTA SECURITY, HUH, PATCHES? PATCHES...?
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! I'VE COME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF FORMALLY! I AM THE PENGUIN! THE NEW KING OF CRIME!
LOOK! THE BATMAN!
NOW! QUICK! CLOSE IN!
GAS! CAN'T BREATHE! TOO MANY...
AWK! AWK! AWK!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
Dist. By Creators Syndicate, Inc
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CSN IN FOCUS

world...to world...to world."

A very popular genre currently is horror--and TSR is ready to offer horror fans a monthly dose of their favorite reading material in ***R.I.P.*** This horror book will feature a variety of terrifying tales by Marv Wolfman and others, with numerous artists bringing their frightening visions to the comics rack each month. "In the tradition of Stephen King and Clive Barker," TSR says, "***R.I.P.*** brings horror into the 1990's with a whole new pantheon of chilling contemporary evil and vivid characters that will drive you to the edge of madness. Plus freestanding games and scenarios for the expanding world of TSR."

The final TSR comics-module title is ***Warhawks,*** a monthly series that explores the worlds of military action in all eras, from the far past to the current to the distant future. The series will be written by Roy Thomas; one of its recurring strips, ***Next War***, will be a military/commando near-future action-adventure series illustrated by Peter Ledger. "Against the backdrop of a million different battles throughout history, the most relentless hunters of all time, The Warhawks, pursue the future's most sinister war criminals. ***Warhawks*** encompasses the most exciting elements of the SPI strategy wargames, from ancient Troy to Vietnam."

The TSR comics will be distinctive in both content and format; the books are being published in 8 3/8"x 10 3/4" magazine size rather than in standard comics size, and will be printed in full color by the same printers responsible for TSR's games, modules, magazines, and books. TSR will be distributing the new comics to gaming stores that wish to carry them as well as to comic shops; "Our goal is to expand TSR in terms of genres and audiences," Marketing Director Justin McCormick said. "We want to create diverse new forms of entertainment for our gaming fans, as well as creating new universes for TSR."

TSR stresses that these initial comics offerings aren't the only comics items the company will be publishing; new ideas are already in development for 1991. Furthermore, the company has other media besides comics slated for exploration.

TSR adds that this line of books will not in any way interfere with the licensed TSR books published by DC; in fact, DC will be adding TSR's ***Dragonlance*** graphic novels to its distribution list beginning this spring. Furthermore, TSR will continue to work closely with Marvel Comics in adding to its ***Marvel Superheroes Role Playing Game*** system; four new Marvel Modules are slated for 1990 release, along with ***Gamers' Handbook of the Marvel Universe Volume Six***, which will update new Marvel characters, and a long-demanded ***X-Men*** boxed role-playing game.

BATMAN™
by Loebs, Infantino & Nyberg
THE PENGUIN SPRINGS HIS TRAP!
AWK! AWK!
2-12-90
SO. THIS IS THE MIGHTY BATMAN? WOULD YOU CARE TO BEG? CRAWL?
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
THAT WAS IMMODERATE, BATMAN. YOU'LL REGRET IT.
THIS PENGUIN HAS A SHARP BEAK!
SAVE THE PREENING FOR SOMEONE WHO CARES, PENGUIN.
2-13-90
AND OUTSIDE...
HMM. NEARLY MIDNIGHT, AND THE MASTER HASN'T REAPPEARED.
LONDON TIN
BARRISTER ARRES
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
IN THE TALONS OF THE PENGUIN...
I'LL BE CRIME BOSS OF GOTHAM, BATMAN! AND YOU'LL BE DEAD... DEAD!
THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME FOR THE CAVALRY TO ARRIVE.
2-14-90
JUST 12:15. TIME TO RECONNOITER!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE MASTER. THIS IS THE TIME FOR "PLAN ALPHA"...
ALL I NEED DO IS SET THE TIME FUSE...
2-15-90
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
CHEE CHEE CHEE
AND THE HOMING DEVICE IN THE MASTER'S BELT SHOULD DO THE REST!
NOW, I'LL CUT THAT MASK FROM YOUR FACE ...STRIP BY STRIP!
CHEE CHEE CHEE
LOOK, BOSS! A BAT!
SHOOT IT DOWN! I'M BUSY!
2-16-90
BUT SUDDENLY...
FWRROOOSHH
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
LOOK, BOSS! SMOKE!
AWK AWK! NOT NOW! NOT NOW!
ALFRED... IT HAS TO BE!
MORE BATS! IT'S A TRAP! KILL 'EM!
AWK! DON'T SHOOT! MY BIRDS!
BANG
BANG
2-17-90
COFF COFF
CAN'T SEE... COFF
HELP, BOSS!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
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CSN QUICKLIST

The upcoming comics quicklist is a listing of scheduled titles and the dates that they should arrive in comics shops across the country. That doesn't mean that the books will always be in your shop on the date listed: some publishers ship from different parts of the country, and the farther away the publisher is from your local comic shop, the longer it will take the books to get to you.

Each entry presents the title and number of the book, followed by the release date; if a title doesn't have a scheduled release date, we don't give you a date. After that is the Publisher of the comic and the price. This quicklist presents the titles that are supposed to ship during the rest of February A complete checklist of titles due in March will appear in *CSN 141.*

❑***A1 3*** Atomeka $5.95
❑***AC Annual 1*** AC $3.95
❑***Action 651*** 2/8 DC .75
❑***Adam Strange 2*** 2/15 DC $3.95
❑***Advanced Dungeons & Dragons 15*** 2/8 DC $1.50
❑***Adventurers Book III 5*** Adventure $2.25
❑***Adventurers Quest One: Chaos Gate TPB*** Adventure $6.95
❑***Adventures of Luther Arkwright 1*** Dark Horse $1.95
❑***Adventures of Superman 464*** 2/1 DC .75
❑***Air Hawk Magazine 5*** Comicoz $2
❑***Alf 28*** 2/15 Marvel $1
❑***Aliens Collection HC*** Dark HOrse s $24.95
❑***Aliens Collection Deluxe HC*** Dark Horse $49.95
❑***Alpha Flight 83*** 2/15 Marvel $1.50
❑***Amazing Heroes 177*** Fantagraphics $3.50
❑***Amazing Spider-Man 331*** 2/15 Marvel $1
❑***Animal Man 21*** 2/1 DC $1.50
❑***Apache Dick 1*** Eternity $2.25
❑***Archie 377*** 2/22 Archie $1
❑***Archie 3000 8*** 2/8 Archie $1
❑***Archie's Double Digest 46*** 2/8 Archie $2.25
❑***Archie's Pals 'n' Gals 214*** 2/1 Archie $1
❑***Archie's R/C Racers 5*** 2/15 Archie $1
❑***Atlantis Chronicles 1*** 2/8 DC $2.95
❑***Avengers 316*** 2/22 Marvel $1
❑***Avengers Spotlight 31*** 2/15 Marvel $1
❑***Avengers West Coast 57*** 2/8 Marvel $1
❑***Bad Company 18*** Fleetway/Quality $1.75
❑***Badger 60 2/8*** First $1.95
❑***Baker Street 5*** Caliber $2.50
❑***Baoh 3*** 2/22 Viz $2.95
❑***Batman 445*** 2/1 DC $1
❑***Batman Portfolio*** 2/22 DC $18
❑***Batman: Digital Justice HC*** 2/15 DC $24.95
❑***Bayou Billy 5*** 2/15 Archie $1
❑***Beautiful Stories For Ugly Children 10*** 2/22 Piranha $2
❑***Betty & Me 182*** 2/15 ARchie $1
❑***Betty & Veronica Comics Digest 42*** 2/8 Archie $1.50
❑***Betty & Veronica 30*** 2/22 Archie $1
❑***Blackhawk 12*** 2/1 DC $1.75
❑***Blood Sword 20*** Jademan $1.95
❑***Blood Sword Dynasty 7*** Jademan $1.25
❑***Body Count 3*** Aircel $2.25
❑***Boogie Man 2*** Fat Man Press $1.95
❑***Border Worlds Vol 2 #1: Marooned*** Kitchen Sink $2
❑***Captain America 369*** 2/8 Marvel $1
❑***Captain Atom 39*** 2/8 DC $1
❑***Captain Harlock 5*** Eternity $1.95
❑***Cases of Sherlock Holmes 19*** Northstar $2.25
❑***Casper Digest 12*** Harvey $1.75
❑***Cerebus 130*** Aardvark-Vanaheim $2
❑***Cerebus: High Society 2*** Aardvark-Vanaheim $1.70
❑***Cerebus: High Society 3*** Aardvark-Vanaheim $1.70
❑***Champion 1*** Special $2.50
❑***Checkmate! 26*** 2/1 DC $1.50
❑***Classics Illustrated 5: Hamlet*** 2/15 First $3.75
❑***Classics Illustrated 6: Scarlet Letter*** 2/15 First $3.75
❑***Comics Express 4*** 2/22 Eclipse $2.95
❑***Comics Interview 80*** Comics Interview $3.95
❑***Comics Interview 81*** Comics Interview $3.95
❑***Comics Journal 135*** Fantagraphics $3.95
❑***Comics Revue 42*** Comics Interview $4.95
❑***Comics Revue 43*** Comics Interview $4.95
❑***Comics Scene 12*** Starlog $3.95
❑***Comics Values Monthly 45*** Attic Press $2.50
❑***Conan 231*** 2/22 Marvel $1
❑***Conan Saga 36*** 2/1 Marvel $2.25
❑***Cormac 2*** Dark Horse $1.95
❑***Critical Mass 3*** 2/8 Marvel $4.95
❑***Cyber 7 Book II 5*** 2/15 Eclipse $2
❑***Cyberpunk Book Two 1*** innovation $2.25
❑***Daikazu 8*** Ground Zero $1.75
❑***Daredevil 279*** 2/8 Marvel $1
❑***Daredevil Poster*** 2/15 Marvel $4.95
❑***Dark Horse Presents 36*** Dark Horse $2.95
❑***Denizens of Deep City 8*** Kitchen Sink $2
❑***Destroyer 7*** 2/22 Marvel $2.25
❑***Detective 612*** 2/8 DC $1
❑***Dick Tracy 1*** Disney $3.95
❑***Dilton's Strange Science 5*** 2/8 Archie $1
❑***Doc Savage 19*** 2/15 DC $2
❑***Doctor Fate 15*** 2/8 DC $1.50
❑***Doctor Strange 15*** 2/1 Marvel $1.50
❑***Doctor Who Monthly 158*** 2/22 Marvel $2.95
❑***Doom Patrol 31*** 2/1 DC $1.50
❑***Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde GN*** Catalan $11.95
❑***Dracula 3*** Eternity $2.50
❑***Dragonlance Comics 18*** 2/22 DC $1.75
❑***Dreadstar 55*** 2/15 First $1.95
❑***Drunken Fist 20*** Jademan $1.95
❑***Dutch Decker 2*** Caliber $1.95
❑***East Meets West 2*** Innovation $2.50
❑***El Diablo 7*** 2/22 DC $1.75
❑***Elementals 12*** 2/15 Comico $2.50
❑***Everything's Archie 149*** 2/15 Archie $1
❑***Excalibur 21*** 2/22 Marvel $1.50
❑***Eye of Mongombo 4*** Fantagraphics $2
❑***Fantasy Zone 7*** 2/22 Marvel $2.95
❑***Fauna Rebellion 1*** Fantagraphics $2
❑***Firestorm 96*** 2/15 DC $1
❑***Firkin the Cat 3*** Last Gasp $2.50
❑***Fission Chicken 5*** Fantagraphics $2
❑***Flash 37*** 2/15 DC $1
❑***Force of Buddha's Palm 20*** Jademan $1.95
❑***Forgotten Realms 18*** 2/22 DC $1.50
❑***French Ticklers 3*** Kitchen Sink $2
❑***Fright Night 19*** 2/8 Now $1.75
❑***Fringe 1*** Caliber $2.50
❑***GI Joe 99*** 2/22 Marvel $1
❑***Gladstone Album 27: Donald Duck*** Gladstone $9.95
❑***Gorezone 13*** Starlog $4.95
❑***Graphic Story Monthly 4*** Fantagraphics $2.95
❑***Green Arrow 30*** 2/8 DC $1.25
❑***Green Hornet 7*** 2/1 Now $1.75
❑***Grimjack 71*** 2/15 First $1.95
❑***Groo the Wanderer 64*** 2/15 Marvel $1
❑***Hawk and Dove 11*** 2/22 DC $1.50
❑***Heathcliff 46*** 2/15 Marvel $1
❑***Hellblazer 28*** 2/22 DC $1.50
❑***Homicide Special 1*** Dark Horse $2.25
❑***Hot Dog 3*** 2/22 Archie $1
❑***Huntress 13*** 2/15 DC $1
❑***Incredible Hulk 368*** 2/22 Marvel $1
❑***Inhumans: Untold Saga 1*** 2/22 Marvel $1.50
❑***Interface 3*** 2/15 Marvel $1.95
❑***Judge Dredd 41*** Fleetway/Quality $1.75
❑***Jughead with Archie Digest 98*** 2/15 Archie $1.50
❑***Justice League America 37*** 2/15 DC $1
❑***Laugh Comics Digest 88*** 2/15 Archie $1.50
❑***Legion of Super Heroes 6*** 2/15 DC $1.75
❑***Lensman 1*** Eternity $2.25
❑***Lensman Collectors Edition 1*** Eternity $3.95
❑***Little Archie Digest 42*** 2/22 Archie $1.50
❑***Manhunter 24*** 2/15 DC $1
❑***Marvel Age 87*** 2/22 Marvel $1
❑***Marvel Comics 48*** 2/22 Marvel $1.25
❑***Marvel Tales 236*** 2/22 Marvel $1
❑***Maze Book 1*** Innovation $10.95
❑***Men in Black 2*** Aircel $2.25
❑***Mike Grell's Sable 4*** 2/22 First $1.75
❑***Mister Miracle 14*** 2/22 DC $1
❑***Much Ado: The Pogofenokee Trivia Book*** 2/15 Eclipse $4.95
❑***Nausicaa GN 2*** 2/22 Viz $13.95
❑***New Mutants 88*** 2/15 Marvel $1
❑***New Titans 65*** 2/22 DC $1.75
❑***Nexus Legends 14*** 2/22 First $1.75
❑***Nth Man 11*** 2/15 Marvel $1
❑***Outlanders 15*** Dark Horse $2.25
❑***Overture 2*** Innovation $2.25
❑***Plastic Forks 1*** 2/15 Marvel $4.95
❑***Police Academy 8*** 2/22 Marvel $1
❑***Prince Valiant Book 8 TPB*** Fantagraphics $14.95
❑***Punisher 32*** 2/22 Marvel $1
❑***Punisher Poster*** 2/15 Marvel $4.95
❑***Quasar 9*** 2/15 Marvel $1
❑***Ralph Snart Adventures TPB*** 2/22 Now $14.95
❑***Retief 3*** Adventure $2.25
❑***Ring 3*** 2/22 DC $4.95
❑***Robocop 2*** 2/22 Marvel $1.50
❑***Robotech II: Malcontent Uprisings 7*** Eternity $1.95
❑***Saga of the Original Human Torch 1*** 2/15 Marvel $1.50
❑***Savage Sword of Conan 172*** 2/15 Marvel $2.25
❑***Secret Origins 48*** 2/22 DC $1.75
❑***She-Hulk: Ceremony 1*** 2/15 Marvel $3.95
❑***Sherlock Homes 20*** Eternity $2.25
❑***SHIELD 10*** 2/22 Marvel $1.50
❑***Snarl 2*** Caliber $2.50
❑***Speakeasy 107*** 2/15 Eclipse $2.95
❑***Spider-Man Poster*** 2/15 Marvel $4.95
❑***Star Trek 7*** 2/22 DC $1.50
❑***Street Poet Ray 1*** 2/22 Marvel $2.95
❑***Sub-Mariner Poster*** 2/15 Marvel $4.95
❑***Superboy 3*** 2/15 DC $1
❑***Superman 42*** 2/22 DC .75
❑***Time Masters 3*** 2/22 DC $1.75
❑***Tom Corbett Space Cadet 2*** Eternity $2.25
❑***What If? 12*** 2/22 Marvel $1.25
❑***Whisper 37*** 2/15 First $1.95
❑***Wolverine 23*** 2/15 Marvel $1.50
❑***Wonder Woman 41*** 2/15 DC $1
❑***Words Without Pictures TPB*** 2/22 Eclipse $8.95
❑***X-Men: From the Ashes TPB*** 2/15 Marvel $14.95

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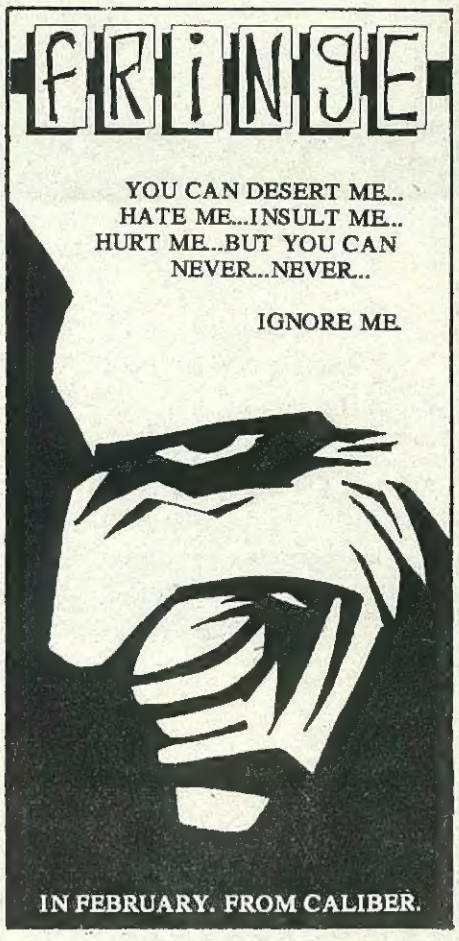


Have you seen anything in this issue of ***Comic Shop News*** that you can't live without? Make sure you don't miss it; clip this handy coupon and write down the things that you want you comics shop owner to be sure to get for you!

Name_____

Address _____

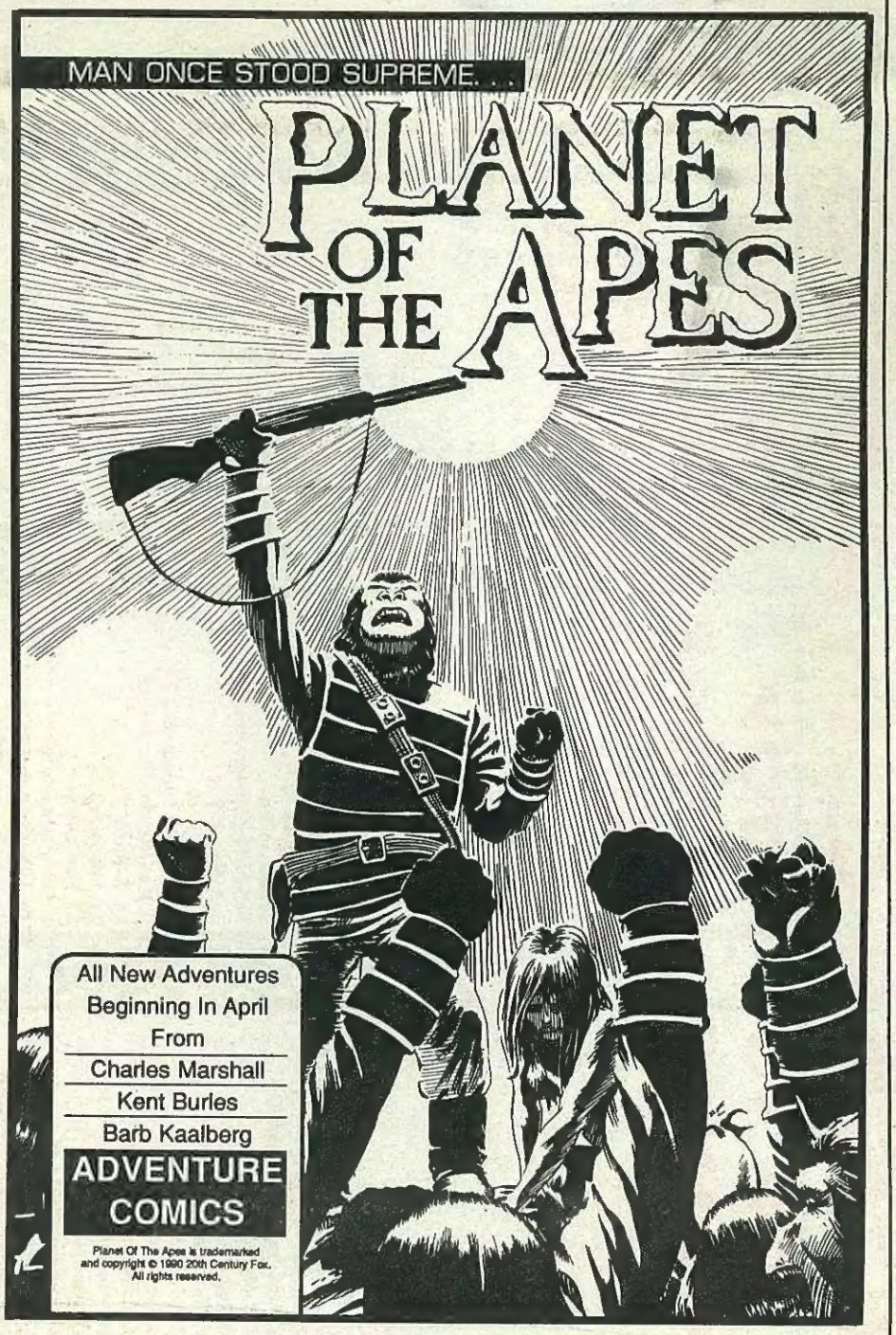
_____

Phone _____

I gotta have 'em! Please reserve for me the following items mentioned in ***Comic Shop News!***

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Be sure to give this to your retailer. Do not send it to CSN! Your comics shop will make every effort to get the items you want; some items may require a down payment before your shop owner can get them for you; be sure to ask!



CSN CHARTS

TOP 50 COMICS

CSN's Top Seller charts are based on figures supplied by the two major distributors, Diamond Distribution and Capital City Distribution, as well as figures by a cross-section of comics speciality shops. The distributor's figures represent retailer orders placed on the titles, while the information from stores represents copies sold.

1. Legends of the Dark Knight 4
2. Batman 445
3. Amazing Spider-Man 330
4. X-Men 259
5. Detective Comics 612
6. Wolverine 22
7. X-Factor 52
8. Excalibur 20
9. Punisher 31
10. Punisher War Journal 16
11. New Mutants 87
12. Fantastic Four 338
13. Robocop 1
14. Avengers West Coast 56
15. Avengers 315
16. What If? 11
17. Spectacular Spider-Man 162
18. Web of Spider-Man 62
19. Justice League Europe 11
20. Incredible Hulk 367
21. Iron Man 254
22. Daredevil 278
23. Silver Surfer 35
24. Justice League America 36
25. Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn 4
26. Captain America 368
27. Thor 415
28. Marvel Comics 45
29. Marvel Comics 46
30. Classic X-Men 45
31. New Titans 64
32. Superman 41
33. Green Arrow 29
34. Legion of Super-Heroes 5
35. Moon Knight 12
36. She-Hulk 13
37. Adventures of Superman 464
38. Avengers Spotlight 30
39. Classics Illustrated: Moby Dick
40. SHIELD 9
41. Action 650
42. Quasar 8
43. Star Trek 6
44. Doctor Strange 14
45. Star Trek: Next Generation 5
46. Superboy 2
47. Green Hornet 7
48. Time Masters 2
49. LEGION 90 12
50. Flash 36

TOP DOLLAR COMICS

The following comics, graphic novels and trade paperbacks were given Top Dollar ratings based on the dollar volume of the copies sold (or are expected to sell) during the late January and February sales period.

1. Legends of Dark Knight 4
2. Punisher Vs. Wolverine: African Saga
3. Wolverine 22
4. Batman 445
5. Amazing Spider-Man 330
6. X-Men 259
7. Excalibur 20
8. Detective Comics 1612
9. Punisher: War Journal 16
10. X-Factor 52
11. Robocop 1
12. Punisher 31
13. New Mutants 87
14. Fantastic Four 338
15. Ring 2
16. What If? 11
17. Avengers West Coast 56
18. Avengers 315
19. Classics Illustrated 4: Moby Dick
20. Spectacular Spider-Man 162
21. Web of Spider-Man 62
22. Classics Illustrated 2: Through the Looking Glass
23. Justice League Europe 11
24. Incredible Hulk 367
25. Dark Horse Presents 35
26. Marvel Comics 56
27. Marvel Comics 47
28. Iron Man 254
29. Classics Illustrated 1: The Raven
30. Daredevil 278
31. Silver Surfer 35
32. War 4
33. New Titans 64
34. Justice League America 36
35. Classic X-Men 45
36. Green Arrow 29
37. Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn 4
38. Classics Illustrated 3: Great Expectations
39. Captain America 368
40. Legion of Super-Heroes 5
41. Moon Knight 12
42. She-Hulk 13
43. Captain America 368
44. Thor 415
45. SHIELD 9
46. Action 650
47. Superman 41
48. Green Hornet 7
49. Time Masters 2
50. Electric Undertow 5

TOP 10 BLACK & WHITE COMICS

1. Dark Horse Presents 35
2. Destroyer 5
3. Cerebus 128
4. Scimidar Book 3 1
5. Captain Harlock 4
6. Crying Freeman 3
7. Crying Freeman 4
8. Beautiful Stories For Ugly Children 8
9. Dominion 1
10. Big Black Kiss 3

TOP TEN NON-COMICS

The Top Ten Non-Comics is based on number and not dollar value. This category includes graphic novels, hardcovers, trade paperbacks, portfolios, etc. It includes books that actually were on sale during the February sales period.

1. Marvel Year in Review
2. Batman: Year Two TPB
3. Aliens Collection TPB
4. Secret Origins TPB
5. Batman & Me TPB
6. Cerebus TPB
7. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Trading Cards
8. Moebius s/n HC Vol. 1 (Graphitti)
9. Grimjack: Demon Knight TPB
10. The Great & Secret Show (Clive Barker HC)